

Appl. No. : 09/891,030
Filed : June 25, 2001

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his careful and thoughtful examination of the present application. By way of summary, Claims 1-28 were pending in this application. In the present amendment, Applicant has amended all of the pending Claims. Applicant has also added new Claims 29-32. Accordingly, Claims 1-32 are pending for consideration.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-16, 18-20, and 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,659,764)

In light of Sakiyama, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to read in part, “a database storing words and ~~non-textual~~ non-language graphic image designators corresponding to said words,” and “a graphic image generator responsive to said graphic image designator to generate a non-language graphic image which represents said verbal communication.” Applicant asserts that as amended, Claim 1 stands in condition for allowance. The added “non-language” limitation makes Claim 1 patentably distinct over Sakiyama because Sakiyama discloses images and animations that depict only sign-language. *See* Abstract; col. 1, ll. 29-33; col. 8, ll. 17-19. Nowhere in his disclosure does Sakiyama contemplate graphic images that depict non-language symbols.

Sakiyama explains that “sign language is a language for aurally handicapped persons who communicate information to a partner by using such means as facial expressions and the position, direction, moving direction, and moving speed of the hand.” Col 1, ll. 29-42. Sakiyama’s sign language computer graphics therefore depict symbols from an actual language. In contrast, Applicant’s graphic images of certain embodiments depict “images *in addition to language* [that] reinforce[] . . . communication[.]” *See* Applicant’s Disclosure, ¶ 65 (emphasis added). For example, the graphic images displayed in Figure 8 of Applicant’s disclosure, which include symbols for words like “storm” and “airport,” depict ideas that may supplement language in a meaningful or entertaining manner. *See Id.*, ¶ 8. These symbols, however, do not depict actual language symbols. *See Id.*, ¶ 60. Applicant’s non-language graphic images are thus patentably distinct from Sakiyama’s sign language graphics, which are simply translations of one language into another. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1.

Appl. No. : 09/891,030
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Claims 10, 15, and 24 also include the “non-language” limitation. Therefore, at least for the reasons stated above, these Claims are patentably distinct over Sakiyama. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the rejection of Claims 10, 15, and 24 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 4-6, 11-14, 16, 18-20, and 25-28 are also allowable at least for the reasons stated above. Furthermore, these Claims each recite a unique combination of features, and they also depend on allowable base Claims. In particular, Claims 2 and 4-6 are dependent on allowable Claim 1, Claims 11-14 are dependent on allowable Claim 10, Claims 16 and 18-20 are dependent on allowable Claim 15, and Claims 25-28 are dependent on allowable Claim 24. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the rejection of Claims 2, 4-6, 11-14, 16, 18-20, and 25-28 should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 3, 7-9, 17, and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakiyama et al.

Claims 3, 7-9, 17, and 21-23 each recite a unique combination of features, and each is dependent on an allowable base Claim. Specifically, Claims 3 and 7-9 are dependent on allowable Claim 1, and Claims 17 and 21-23 are dependent on allowable Claim 15. Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 3, 7-9, 17, and 21-23.

New Claims

Applicant has added new Claims 29-32 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as certain embodiments of his invention. Applicant notes that support for the “language component” of Claims 29-32 is found at least in Figure 8 of Applicant’s disclosure, which illustrates the numbers “911” superimposed on the graphic image of a cross, and at paragraph 60 of Applicant’s disclosure. Applicant respectfully submits that these Claims are also in condition for allowance.

Other Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended Claims 3-5, 7, 11, 12, 17-19, 21, and 25-28 to comport with the antecedent basis requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. Applicant has also added a limitation to Claim 27 that “said step of inputting ~~verbal communication~~ words comprises ~~speaking~~ using a

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keyboard, mouse, touch-pad, joystick, or pen-input-pad," to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as certain embodiments of his invention. Applicant notes that support for this limitation is found at least at paragraph 30 of Applicant's disclosure. Applicant asserts that Claims 3-5, 7, 11, 12, 17-19, 21, and 25-28 stand in condition for allowance.

Specification Amendment

Applicant has amended paragraph 41 of the specification to change "quipped" to its proper spelling of "equipped."

Conclusion

Applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. In view of the above remarks, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to initiate the same with the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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